

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated April 28, 2010, claims 1, 2, 21, and 23-25 were rejected.

Herein, claims 7, 10, 21, 23, and 25 have been amended, and new claims 32-35 have been added. No new matter has been added. Additionally, claims 1-6, 11-20, 22, 24, and 26-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimed to the subject matter therein. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that original claims 3-10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if redrafted into independent form. By this Amendment, claims 3-6 have been redrafted into independent form as new claims 32-35, respectively.

Minor editorial amendments have been made to the specification. A marked up version of the specification, as well as a substitute specification incorporating the changes are submitted. No new matter has been entered.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 24 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is moot.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 21, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomlinson et al. (US 6,389,535, hereafter “Thomlinson”). By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 24 have been cancelled, and claims 21, 23, and 25 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 21, 23, and 25 are patentable over Thomlinson.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-10 were objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim. As noted above, claims 3-6 have been redrafted into independent form as new claims 32-35, respectively.

Additionally, claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 35, and claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 7-10 be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-10, 21, 23, 25, and 32-35 are clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing the above remarks, the Examiner believes that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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